



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

*National Marine Fisheries Service*

*P.O. Box 21668*

*Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

November 17, 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR: Rolland A. Schmitten  
Director, Office of Habitat Conservation

FROM: *For* James W. Balsiger *Rolland A. Schmitten*  
Administrator, Alaska Region

SUBJECT: AOC v. Daley Status Report

The following is the Alaska Region's input for the agency's December 2004 status report for the AOC v. Daley lawsuit, per the December 19, 2001 Joint Stipulation and Order.

1. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council reviewed the preliminary draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs) at its October 2004 meeting and voted to release the draft EA for public comment. The Council also voted to include in the draft EA a new management option for the proposed eastern Gulf of Alaska coral HAPCs. The new option would allow continued fishing in the proposed eastern Gulf of Alaska HAPCs with gears other than bottom trawls, whereas the other management option in the draft EA would prohibit all bottom contact fishing.
2. NMFS continued work on the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) in Alaska. NMFS made revisions to various sections of the EIS in response to public comments on the draft. NMFS also began compiling additional information in response to the Center for Independent Experts' peer review of the agency's evaluation of the effects of fishing on EFH in Alaska.

cc: F/AKR4 - Jon Kurland  
GCAK - John Lepore  
NPFMC  
Records

